September, 2004, CoPT was, *inter alia*, requested to take further action to expeditiously start work on the project. DPI, with whom CoPT took up the matter, requested for certain concessions/facilities to facilitate its early migration from Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) to ICTT which are in addition to what has been provided for in the draft License Agreement which had earlier been finalised after discussions between CoPT and the prospective bidders during pre-bid meetings before submissions of the price bids. The additional concessions/ facilities sought by DPI include deferment of part of royalty payable to the Port Trust during the first eight years of the license period, a more liberal instalment plan for payment of upfront amount to the Port Trust, allotment of more land and relaxation in height restrictions for operation of cranes in RGCT. A revised Proposal submitted by DPI in the form of a revised draft License Agreement was placed by CoPT before the Board of Trustees (Board) for perusal and appropriate decision. The revised Proposal aims at early migration of DPI from RGCT to ICTT. It also binds DPI to implementing the ICTT project in a time bound manner subject to CoPT fulfilling the Conditions Precedent and obligations on its part as set out in the revised draft License Agreement. The Board, in its meeting held on 25.11.2004 considered the revised Proposal after taking into account various factors including an assessment of the financial implications of the revised Proposal as placed before it and recommended the revised Proposal to the Government of India for final approval. The request of CoPT for Government approval to the acceptance of the revised Proposal submitted by DPI has been received and is under process for obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority.

Revival plan for HDPEL

809. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question 2527 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th August, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the revival plan of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd., (HDPEL) has been firmed up;

(b) if so, the detailed components of the revival plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A team of experts is examining the details of the functioning of HDPEL and preparing a realistic revival plan.

New pension scheme for port workers

810. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to go for new pension schemes for major port workers and seafarers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Seamen Provident Fund Act?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government introduced a new pension scheme based on defined contribution for new entrants recruited on or after 1.1.2004 for all employees of the Government and Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies under the administrative control of different Central Ministries/Departments *vide* Gazette notification of 10th October, 2003. No further new scheme for grant of pension for port workers, seafarers etc. is under consideration.

(c) There is no provision for pension scheme in the Seamen Provident Fund Act, 1966 and there is no proposal to amend the SPF Act, 1966 in order to provide for pension scheme.